

to the fundamental laws, shall be considered as residents and entitled to all the rights of persons natural born. (From a proposed Constitution for Virginia, 1776. F. II., 26.)

NATURALIZATION.—I cannot omit recommending¹ a revisal of the laws on the subject of naturalization. Considering the ordinary chances of human life, a denial of citizenship under a residence of fourteen years is a denial to a great proportion of those who ask it, and controls a policy pursued from their first settlement by many of these States; and still believed of consequence to their prosperity. And shall we refuse the unhappy fugitives from distress that hospitality which the savages of the wilderness extended to our fathers arriving in this land? Shall oppressed humanity find no asylum on this globe? The Constitution, indeed, has wisely provided that, for admission to certain offices of important trust, a residence shall be required sufficient to develop character and design. But might not the general character and capabilities of a citizen be safely communicated to every one manifesting a bona fide purpose of embarking his life and fortunes permanently with us? With restrictions, perhaps, to guard against the fraudulent usurpation of our flag; an abuse which brings so much embarrassment and loss on the genuine citizen; and so much clanger to the nation of being involved in war, that no endeavor should be spared to detect and suppress it. (First Annual Message, 1801. F. VIII., 124.)

NAVIGATION OF THE MISSISSIPPI.—We cannot omit this occasion of urging on the Court of Madrid the necessity of hastening a final acknowledgment of our right to navigate the Mississippi; a right which has long been suspended in exercise, with extreme inconvenience on our part merely with a desire of reconciling Spain to what it is impossible for us to relinquish. (To U. S. Charge D'Affaires in Spain, 1791. F. V., 298.)

NAVIGATION.—If we appeal to the law of nature and nations as we feel it written in the heart of man, what sentiment is written in deeper characters than that the ocean is free to all men, and the rivers to all their inhabitants? Is there a man, savage or civilized, unbiased by habit, who does not feel and attest this tribute? Accordingly in all tracts of country united